

Nothing in Motion Pictures Nor in Fiction More Surprising, More Dramatic Than the Real Life Career of This Young Adventuress

him a sign of intrigue. As he stood in the cafe doorway overlooking the merry midnight crowd an officer saw him. Instantly a hush spread over the room. One after the other the truant officers arose, clicked their heels and stood, silent and fearful, at the side of their tables.

The Grand Duke stepped into the room. Behind him six mousjik soldiers framed themselves in the doorway. The Commander turned down the aisle between the tables. He stopped before a major, who saluted with shaking arm. The Grand Duke gave a sharp order. The major saluted again and walked to the door, where he gave his side arms to the corporal in command of the mousjiks.

At six other tables the Grand Duke stopped and gave that same gruff order to an officer, who saluted while his feminine companion quaked to her very boots.

When he had reached the end of the aisle the Grand Duke turned toward the doorway and lifted his hand to the corporal of the guard. Then he stood still, silent and grim, while the soldiers at the door across the room formed into line behind the seven officers and marched them outside. The Grand Duke remained standing, coldly eyeing the scene before him, the standing officers and the hushed, whitened faces of their companions. In hardly more than a minute a shot echoed in through the door. A shudder swept over the room. Then, with a terrible, unwavering precision, six more shots were heard. As the sound of the last died away the Grand Duke swept his eyes once more across the room and walked back down the aisle and out the door.

The Seven Still Forms That Met the Eyes of the Terrorized Revellers

When the crowd surged out of the cafe, its faces ghastly white, its women shrieking in hysteria, it was confronted at the sidewalk by seven bodies stretched in a row, with a mousjik guard awaiting the arrival of the ambulances.

The arbitrary methods of the Grand Duke served to sober the city, but upon the intrigues of such resourceful spies and agents as Mme. Storch they had little effect. She played for higher game than bacchic confidences at public cafes.

One of the most talked about persons of high estate in Russia at that time was Mme. Soukhomlinoff, the young and charming wife of the aged Minister of War. Mme. Soukhomlinoff was a dressmaker's model in a little Ukrainian town when she attracted the attention of Russia's most powerful statesman, head of the War Department, and virtually commander-in-chief of the army. The Minister's wooing was short and

romantic. Suddenly he introduced the dressmaker's model to the capital as his wife.

Mme. Soukhomlinoff enjoyed to the utmost her sudden rise. For a time her establishment was, necessarily, comparatively modest. The War Minister was not wealthy, having risen from an humble station to his high position. Yet his young wife quickly displayed a taste for lavish luxuries which became a matter of general comment.

It is believed that Mme. Storch was ordered by Germany to cultivate the acquaintance of Mme. Soukhomlinoff. She was welcomed as a confidante by the War Minister's wife. Shortly after this acquaintance began Mme. Soukhomlinoff displayed all the evidences of a mysterious source of wealth. Her entertainments became remarkable for their extravagance, and her taste for jewels and motors was indulged to the utmost.

As Russia's part in the war began to assume definite shape it became apparent that the quickest route to choice appointments, promotions or positions of trust under the War Ministry lay through Mme. Soukhomlinoff's reception room. To her even the scions of powerful families went with their pleas for preferment. It was noticed that those who won the favor of the young Mme. Soukhomlinoff received also the favor of her husband, the Minister of War. It was a remarkable coincidence that among these were many in whom Mme. Storch also was deeply interested.

One of these latter was an officer of gendarme from the Kieff district. Captain Miasoyedoff had won many honors as a soldier, having risen from the ranks to his commission in the semi-military organization. In the mobilization he was transferred back to the army and stationed at Petrograd. He wanted to be sent to the front with the army that was about to invade East Prussia. He learned that one way to accomplish this was

by paying his respects to the wife of the Minister of War.

Mme. Storch at once became interested in Captain Miasoyedoff, who was much pleased that the friend of Mme. Soukhomlinoff should single him out for special attention. There were many tete-a-tetes. The soldier lost his heart to the captivating young woman, who promised to plead for him with the War Minister's wife. The captain merely wanted to be transferred from his post in Petrograd to the front. Very well; that should be done. Mme. Storch would arrange it herself. But he was so handsome, so military, and a colonel's uniform would be so much more magnificent than his captain's outfit. How would he like to be a colonel?

There were many more tete-a-tetes. The captain's devotion increased. A colonel! It was beyond his dreams. And, besides, the love of such a beautiful creature as this intimate friend of the powerful wife of the Minister of War! He could hardly believe it possible.

But it was. Captain Miasoyedoff received his commission as colonel, with orders to report to the commanding officer of the Tenth Army Corps, which comprised the troops leading the meteoric invasion of East Prussia!

The rest of the records of the court of inquiry which sat a few months later are illuminating.

At the height of Grand Duke Nicholas's campaign, when the Russian army had battled its way into the very heart of Eastern Germany, Hindenburg suddenly turned upon the invaders, striking at half a dozen vulnerable points. He trapped the whole of the Tenth Army Corps, and virtually wiped it out in terrible slaughter. The Grand Duke discovered that the ammunition which he held in reserve to meet such a crisis would not explode. His artillery was proved defective. The reserves he called for were hurried to him, but without rifles. Hindenburg knew where every weak spot in the Russian advance was located, and hammered it with terrible effectiveness. The retreat became a rout. That was the beginning of the Russian collapse.

It was soon discovered that all the offensive plans of the Russian army had been delivered to Hindenburg as soon as they were formulated; that the German commander knew in advance as much about the disposition and equipment of the Russians as did the Grand Duke himself.

The newly commissioned Colonel Miasoyedoff was found to be the traitor. It was discovered that he, assigned to a regiment which always was in contact with the enemy, had taken advantage of the opportunities thus afforded him to deliver advance information of Russian military movements to Hindenburg. Colonel Miasoyedoff was hanged. Then Russia set about to discover how the colonel received information which was supposed to be for the Commander-in-Chief alone.

How Russia's Tragic Fate Was Fixed in the Boudoir of a Woman

This investigation led direct to the boudoir of Mme. Soukhomlinoff. She, it was learned, had long been the real Minister of War. She had dominated her husband. Russia's war plans had been on a table in her boudoir before they were transmitted to the Commander-in-Chief. Contracts for ammunition and orders for its transportation were virtually issued by Mme. Soukhomlinoff herself, to whom the War Minister had given authority to sign his name to important documents.

Mme. Soukhomlinoff could not explain the source of the vast income which her private expenditures indicated. She could not explain why she had caused her husband by the use of his signature to send thousands of tons of ammunition from Petrograd to Moscow when the Grand Duke in East Prussia was calling for it desperately. She could not explain, either, how Colonel Miasoyedoff knew that the Tenth Army Corps would be in a perilous position, without guns or powder, at the precise moment Hindenburg chose for his fateful blow. Yet it was shown that information could only have been obtained from the table in her boudoir.

The Minister of War was sentenced to a dungeon for life as a traitor. It was the Russian way to be gallant to women. Mme. Soukhomlinoff was acquitted when the court brought in its merciless verdict against her husband.

In the meantime Prince Soubenkov, who had escaped the massacre of the Tenth Army Corps, had seen on the street the face of Mme. Storch. She was warned in time, and made her escape before the expose of her victim, Colonel Miasoyedoff, and the disgrace of the Minister of War. Those who knew said Mme. Storch had compelled the colonel as the price of her affection to convey to Hindenburg what she learned from Mme. Soukhomlinoff.

It was only a few weeks afterward that Mme. Storch appeared in London, where, under the alias Mme. Hesqueth, she played for even higher stakes than the disruption of Russia.

(To Be Continued Next Sunday)



The Cost of the Vampire's Kiss—The Fate of Colonel Miasoyedoff, Who Betrayed Russia to Hindenburg When He Had Fallen Victim to the Wiles of Mme. Storch. She Escaped, but the Officer, Who Became Traitor to Please Her, Was Hanged.

Young Wife of Russia's Aged Minister of War—Mme. Soukhomlinoff, Charged with Having Betrayed Russia's War Plans to the Enemy. Her Husband Was Sent to Prison for Life.

ashing army officers. an unexpected sudden thing was chaos in every hand there were German organization of the throne itself. whole divisions were who danced attendy from France congs to her—and many The chaos increased. Nicholas, Commander-conditions in the strigie haunting the re-free women who St. Petersburg from Some of these he rison. of midnight the tall, mmander-in-Chief apus cafe, in which the ht. At almost every owned young woman. of his army who had influence a leave of re the fighting was. ng women the Grand armies at the front. of his officers was, to